



MAYOR PATRICK J. FUREY'S 2022 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going and the insight to know when you've gone too far.

Some of you may recall, I opened my very first State of the City Address with this Irish Proverb. It used to hang in my office when I was working with the Los Angeles County Counsel. It was a great basis for what I shared with you 8 years ago, and the sentiment continues to ring true today.

Since we last met in person we have lived through a pandemic, masking and vaccination controversies, an economic shut down, civil unrest, looting, a presidential election, and even an insurrection! And, that's just at my house!

As I prepared for my address, numerous projects and developments we've accomplished over the past 2 terms remind me just how far we've come. You can see our accomplishment for just the past year in our first ever Year in Review highlighted on TorranceCA.Gov. It's a great resource and provides beautiful visuals of our projects, programs and services; it really could be a coffee table book. When you get a chance take a look! I entered office with plans of progress, sustainable change, economic development. I wanted to attract high paying jobs, strong and innovative companies to Torrance. I wanted to strengthen our city services, public safety, and improve our children's safety while at school. Little did I know that I would be attempting to accomplish these goals during an unprecedented pandemic.

As you know, we attacked 2020 head on and have continued to do our part in slowing the spread. Our ISO Class 1 premier Fire Department under the leadership of Fire Chief Martin Serna, took the lead early last year to provide and coordinate **COVID-19 vaccination** not only to our first responders but also to City personnel, Torrance Unified School District, and the community at large. To provide vaccination, the Torrance Fire Department had to become an approved provider in order to store and administer vaccines, as well as document vaccine inventory and administration. This required significant input and coordination between several agencies. In order to provide the high volume of vaccinations, TFD paramedics volunteered for training to administer vaccinations in clinic and in-home



settings. Within a period of 5 months, TFD facilitated the administration of nearly 4,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Almost 2,000 doses were provided in TFD-led vaccination clinics. A little more than 1,100 doses were provided with our vaccine allotment in partnership with **Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center - Torrance and Torrance Memorial Medical Center**. Our hospitals and nearby **Kaiser Permanente and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center** have really been our MVPs the last couple of years.

Prior to the pandemic, Supervisor Janice Hahn secured County funding to expand a **Mobile Stroke Unit** program operated by **UCLA Health** and sponsored by the Arline and Henry Gluck Foundation to the South Bay. This special unit is equipped with a mobile CT scanner, point-of-care lab tests, telehealth connection with a vascular neurologist, and therapies, is designed to deliver proven stroke treatments to patients faster than ever before. It's the West Coast's first ever Mobile Stroke Unit and having it in Torrance means our community is receiving individualized stroke treatments catered to their medical needs. It means they are being provided proven stroke treatments faster than ever before.

During the Pandemic, our hospitals created more beds for surges of patients, shored up supplies of protective gear, led efforts to ensure access to vaccinations in our community, among their own staff, and so much more. Let's give them a round of applause! I'd also like to congratulate Craig Leach on being the recipient of the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. You have been a great partner and the community is lucky to have you.

Through the collaboration between our Fire Department, Torrance Memorial Medical Center and LA County Department of Public Health, 116 of those doses specifically went to at risk, homebound individuals within our community. TFD further assisted in coordinating more than 600 additional doses with a non-profit group to assist in vaccinating some of our residents within the city. Staff also kept in regular contact with skilled nursing and assisted-living facilities to ensure our senior residents had access to vaccinations.

Our paramedic/vaccinators as we now call them, reported that many homebound recipients gave them tearful "thank yous," with some stating that they had not been able to physically touch or see their families for more than a year. Public Health said the Torrance partnership for homebound vaccination was the model that the rest of the county should emulate.

Torrance Fire Department and our community partners worked hard to stay ahead of the vaccine rollout, so that we were able to provide vaccination as soon as it was available. This was particularly important as Fire planned and collaborated with the school district to ensure that the vaccine was available to TUSD faculty and staff as early as possible to keep them and their students safe in the classroom. Nearly all of 2020 and 2021 were spent in virtual learning environments for our students. Under the leadership of Superintendent Tim Stowe, our schools prevailed and despite the new methods and learning curve our teachers encountered switching to online instruction, Torrance Unified School District graduation rates remain in the top 20% in California.



Now, I could not have imagined when I said I wanted to improve the safety of our children in school 8 years ago that it would mean slowing the spread of a global pandemic. But that's what we did. "**We are Torrance**", that's what we do. We adapt, we pivot, we find opportunities.

More opportunities came with the appointment of Police Chief Jay Hart in April of last year. Chief Hart recognized that TPD has long benefited from the relationship with our community and developed the **Chief's Advisory Board** to provide a forum where key stakeholders can act as a community resource for the Chief in the development of strategies, sharing community concerns and increasing public trust. The board will be made up of a diverse group of people that is reflective of our city with various backgrounds in business, education, non-profit organizations, public relations, the faith-based community and others. They will work directly with the Chief to express the community's needs for police services, assist in educating the community about the function and role of the Torrance Police Department, and promote community awareness, understanding and involvement between the Torrance Police Department and the citizens of Torrance.

Improvements are happening everywhere in the City even in connectivity. Regionally significant, the 8.1 million **PCH and Hawthorne Intersection Improvement Project** funded by Measure R will widen the intersection to allow for two left-turn lanes, three through lanes, and a dedicated right-turn lane in each direction. This will help ease congestion in two of our City's main thoroughfares.

Enhancing some of our main entries to our City, funded by Measure R and State funds, the 41.6 million improvement project on the **405 ramps at 182nd and Crenshaw** is a joint project between the City of Torrance and Caltrans that includes the widening of the intersections, freeway, and the addition of freeway on-ramps. This project is ongoing and it will address increased traffic demands, reduce congestion delays and improve safety. It will also complement our planned **Citywide Wayfinding Project** that will welcome visitors and help the community identify key routes to important destinations. And what better way to navigate our City other than our very own Torrance Transit?

Torrance Transit will be introducing **all-electric buses** to its fleet this year. These zero-emission buses will serve alongside alternative-fuel Compressed Natural Gas buses to provide public transportation service to Torrance and the South Bay community. Also included in this project are **zero-emission, rubber wheel trolleys** that will serve the community in areas where a full-sized bus may not be able to navigate.

More than \$20 MILLION in competitive grant funding has been awarded to Torrance Transit for the purchase of replacement and expansion buses, which are scheduled to arrive this year. Torrance Transit also received additional grant funding for the construction of heavy-duty vehicle charging infrastructure, and the purchase of a solar-powered light duty charging station for smaller vehicles.

In addition, I'm proud to announce as part of the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2021 Grants



Program, we were just notified that thanks to **Congresswoman Maxine Waters**, Torrance Transit will receive more than \$6 million additional dollars to purchase five battery-electric buses and to construct an electric bus vehicle charging station. These buses are part of Transit's ongoing effort to decrease greenhouse gas emissions for the residents of Torrance and the South Bay. The project will also improve bus service as Torrance Transit enhances its existing network in this region including extending the Line 10 from the Crenshaw Station to SoFi Stadium at Hollywood Park in Inglewood. Named the "Torrance to Florence" service, this enhancement will allow fans and residents of the South Bay to travel to sports and entertainment events at the stadium in a convenient and cost-effective way. By providing direct connection to this entertainment venue, the "Torrance to Florence" service will help alleviate traffic congestion on local streets and roads during game days and special events. This in turn reduces overall vehicle emission levels and fuel consumption.

In addition to the grant for the electric buses, **Congresswoman Maxine Waters and U. S. Senator Alex Padilla** helped us secure **More than \$900,000 for the City's Airport Water Basin Project**. The Project will help reduce storm water pollution at Machado Lake, and also aims to achieve displacement avoidance by helping mitigate the risk of flooding to Harbor City.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention the **Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center** which will be completed this year! The multi-modal transportation hub for the South Bay region will also serve as the future terminus for the Metro C Line, bringing light-rail service to the area. The connectivity of our streets and transit, this is all "**Torrance by Design!**" We hope it will entice more visitors to shop, dine, and explore the arts and culture Torrance has to offer.

Since the State's reopening, our Community Services Department pulled together ambitious cultural events and programs under specific guidance for participant health and safety. Season highlights included the restoration of creative and wellness classes such as yoga and ceramics, as well as Torrance Theatre Company productions at their Downtown theater, including an acclaimed production of "**Nunsense: The MegaMusical**," at the Armstrong Theatre. There also was continuation and expansion of the **Farmers Market** which offered curbside pick-up during the height of the pandemic. It's noteworthy to mention that the Torrance Farmers' Market closed for only one week at the start of the pandemic and we pivoted and opened back up for the community with new protocols in place and I know the community really enjoys it.

The Torrance Art Museum also presented the **ULTRA!** exhibit and public art festival for more than 2,000 guests followed by **NOMAD**, the largest pop-up of contemporary art in Southern California history showcased at the Del Amo Crossing office complex.

This very large and very successful event, brought more than 470 artists into our City to show their work on multiple floors and in various offices and cubicles of a former medical building at Del Amo Crossing. It was billed as the largest pop-up art show in Southern California contemporary art history.



If you didn't catch it, you missed out! The quality of the work was all over the artistic universe, and seemingly in every medium, from painting and ceramics to photography and assemblage art. Many of the artists were on hand to talk about and discuss their work.

Community Services staff are working on bringing art events of this caliber as an annual summer occurrence, keeping you entertained during the summer months.

Though COVID did change the way we operate, it did not stop us from conducting normal business. **The homeless outreach program** was created during the pandemic and was designed to provide outreach to people experiencing homelessness in an effort to improve safety and quality of life for all. Our team responds to business concerns on this matter and works with the Social Services Commission, as well as the City Council. Through this work, a temporary housing program was developed and recommended to City Council. The program couples tiny homes with case management with the goal to transition people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing.

Our dedicated team secured more than \$2.2 million in client aid funds for various services to people experiencing homelessness in the City of Torrance from South Bay Cities Council of Governments Innovation Funds, Permanent Local Housing Allocation grant funds, and private donations. \$700,000 of that amount was secured by **L.A. County Supervisor–Janice Hahn**. And, just last week it was announced that our **United States Senators Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein** secured **\$1 million for Pathway Torrance and along with Congressman Ted Lieu \$1 million for Homelessness Response**. Pathway Torrance will retrofit an unused former health facility into a community health facility that would provide programmatic and specialized support, city paramedic response, emergency training, and education for area residents, students, and persons who are at risk for, or are experiencing, homelessness. The funds secured for Homelessness Response would go toward strengthening city infrastructure, retaining outreach workers, housing navigators, and identifying city sites for potential permanent supportive or transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness.

In addition to the Homelessness funding, another \$700,000 was secured by **Senators Feinstein and Padilla** to allow for a back-up power source at the City's new Emergency Operations Center.

I should also commend our **State Senator Steven Bradford** on the now enacted **Fair Pay to Play Act**. This allows collegiate athletes to acquire endorsements and sponsorships using their name, image and likeness while still maintaining athletic eligibility. While Senator Bradford's legislature took roots in California, universities nationwide and the NCAA eventually saw the light and now college athletes across the nation have a right to earn compensation from what is known as "athletic reputation.." Thank you Senator for being on the forefront on this and so many other issues. Now, these are prime examples of "**Torrance at Work**."



Torrance Refining Company continues to be an active member of the community. The Refinery supports several civic organizations, STEAM-based programs in Torrance schools and contributes to the Switzer Learning Center, Torrance-South Bay YMCA, and many more. The Refinery has an active volunteer program that facilitates opportunities for employees and retirees to serve the community throughout the year.

Our young adults are an important part of our community. They will shape the City's future with their decisions. During my term, I started a High School Students and Local Government Program to get soon to be voters excited about civic duties. I was not able to continue it during COVID but it was my favorite program as Mayor. Successful communities recognize the importance of nurturing young adults with higher education and benefit from their contributions in the future. In fact, two of Torrance's business partners were recently honored by El Camino College as 2022 Distinguished Alumni. Karin Baker of American Honda Motor Co., Inc., and Kirk Rossberg, President of Torrance Bakery.

Karin Baker is part of the Corporate Social Responsibility Local Unit at American Honda Motor Company. Karin joined American Honda's Corporate Community Relations team in 1997 and throughout her 24-year career at American Honda, she's had the opportunity to expand her role to work with the local South Bay community, as well as on national and global initiatives. Congratulations Karin!

Kirk Rossberg owner and President of Torrance bakery is no stranger to the group we have today. He served as President of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce in 2020 and received the Small Business Advocate of the Year from the CA Chamber of Commerce in 2020 for his work on behalf of local businesses! Once again, congratulations Kirk!

With so many successful alumni, Torrance is very lucky to have higher education of El Camino College and Cal State Dominguez Hills almost at our doorstep. Our local institutions are seeing a lot of positive change and progress and I recently had the opportunity to visit El Camino College and meet President Brenda Thames. I have an upcoming visit set up for Cal State Dominguez Hills with President Thomas Parham and I look forward to building stronger partnerships with both schools.

Combining education and business, Jan Vogel and our partners at the **South Bay Workforce Investment Board** created an apprenticeship program meant to prepare people for enhanced careers as aerospace engineers and technicians. The Aero-Flex Apprenticeship Program helps workers get their foot in the door. And it helps employers tap into a local labor pool they might not already have access to.

We found another partner in the nonprofit **ICAN**. ICAN's 10,000 square-foot Torrance facility, is setup to serve more than 500 clients. ICAN's volunteers and staff help clients learn different skills, such as cooking and crafts, which they put to work directly into business by selling the products they make on Etsy; they also sell the food they make locally. Some of what they cook will come from a 2,400 square-foot garden made possible in part by donations from Torrance businesses Sunflower Farms Nursery and Kellogg Supply. The nonprofit also works with clients as they conquer new jobs at local



businesses. Several clients worked at our local Costco.

Our community is lucky to have innovative and hands on non-profits to benefit our residents. With Torrance's weather and proximity to important areas in So Cal, it's no surprise people want to live their whole life here. Caring House is aware of these sentiments. They understand we all deserve to experience peace at the end of our lives. Caring House is a non-profit, home-based setting completely focused on helping residents and their families through the end-of-life journey. Executive Director, Jon Mesko is leading the first and only one of its kind in Los Angeles County. He has built several businesses, ranging in size from one staff member all the way up to a team of 700, and strongly believes that more human connection and empathy is key to greater fulfillment for all. He brings to Caring House a high level of energy and a passion to serve the community and we are lucky to have him and the services of Caring House right here in our City.

Like many other cities, Torrance experienced financial challenges due to unforeseen repercussions of the pandemic. This is nothing new. Historically, Torrance has seen obstacles and overcome them. I was a councilmember during the recession. I know Torrance is strong. We have the stamina to rebuild and recuperate. In fact, Niche, a company that helps individuals discover neighborhoods, analyzed cities in the United States using data on crime, jobs, cost of living, and public schools from federal sources like the U.S. Census, FBI and Bureau of Labor Statistics, as well as local community reviews. Torrance ranked #5 in California for Best Cities to Live and #23 in the United States!

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the local economy and region as a whole, yet Torrance still found economic development opportunities. Activity at the Del Amo Fashion Center continues despite the ever-changing protocols. In partnership with Discover Torrance, Visit California opened a new **California Welcome Center** in April 2021. Apparently Amazon took notice of all the shopping happening in Torrance and is opening a retail Amazon store across from the Fashion Center on the Boulevard as well as an Amazon Fresh Market at the former Smart & Final at Torrance Boulevard.

We continue to explore possible redevelopment options for the **Sears parcel** and property adjacent to the mall. Among the possibilities being considered include housing, hotel development, and commercial development. With COVID-19 restrictions lifted, the City has seen an uptick in activity at the mall reminiscent of pre-pandemic levels, which is a welcome relief to businesses that were once struggling during the peak of restrictions. I have to thank our retailers, restaurants, and entertainment businesses for weathering the storm with us. They remained on standby, patiently waiting, and kept our community safe by following health and safety protocols.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic has created several challenges for businesses, the City launched its COVID-19 Business Assistance Program making half a million dollars available to help support our local businesses in various capacities during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Our biotech companies played an important part in this pandemic. As I mentioned in 2020, **Neoteryx** has been integral in Covid-19 Testing. It was no surprise when founder, **Fasha Majoer** was announced as the 2022 **Science History Institute's Pittcon Award Honoree** for his unique place in the history of the instrumentation and laboratory supplies community.

Another Biotech Company, **PolyPeptide Group** has been active in supporting multiple COVID-19 projects, and partners with a variety of global pharmaceutical, biotech and research institutions to support their urgent research in the fight against disease and the serious symptoms caused by COVID-19. The company continues to grow in Torrance adding on to the campus they have developed on Maple Avenue.

Bachem, our other leading peptide manufacturer in town, has been in the process of reconfiguring their facilities with plans to invest approximately \$40 million over the next few years to streamline efficiencies and allow for continued growth here in Torrance as well. They too have been involved in developing treatments to fight COVID-19.

Many businesses have shown innovation in pivoting their business models during these difficult times and providing services and products that can be beneficial to other businesses and residents in meeting public health needs.

Manufacturing companies have faced a slew of challenges as a result of supply chain backups, labor shortages, competition from overseas and COVID-19 mandates, but **Virco Manufacturing Corporation**, the nation's largest manufacturer of school furniture kept pace with the demand as schools reopened. COVID Stimulus funds allowed many districts to catch up on back logged maintenance and replacements. Virco has been led by three generations of the Virtue family and has opted to keep its operations in the U.S. for two reasons — worker loyalty and the costs involved in shipping furniture from overseas. Noteworthy, nearly 40% of the company's workers have been with Virco for more than 20 years.

Our long-time business partners are "**Why Torrance**" is a big city with a hometown feel. Sunrider International celebrated its 40th anniversary on February 1st, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and held at its gleaming world headquarters on Carson St.

Founded in Utah in 1982, **Sunrider International** relocated to Southern California in 1987, and into its current world headquarters building, located in the heart of Torrance, in 1993. Guided by owner expertise, Sunrider is a growing global direct selling enterprise that currently spans nearly 50 countries. Congratulations again, Sunrider. Happy 40th.

Pelican Products has been contributing to our community as well as the environment. In recent years, Pelican says it has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to further its sustainability initiatives. The company has identified six goals to which it can contribute the most positive impact, including through recycling, reducing waste, implementing energy conservation programs and building partnerships with organizations. The company has been holding electronic drives at their various locations and working with **Human-I-T**, a nonprofit organization that takes unwanted technology, fixes and provides it to those in need.



Trail blazers of Clean Air Vehicles, our longtime partners at **Honda Motor Company** continue to lead the way in Greener Dealerships. The Honda 'Green Dealer' Program Leverages 10 Years of Experience to Lead Auto Industry Toward More Environmentally Responsible Dealership Operations

Honda and Acura Environmental Leadership Programs help hundreds of auto, power sports and power equipment dealers measurably reduce their environmental impact. Dealers nationwide have collectively reduced over 177,000 metric tons in CO2 emissions, saving them more than \$34 million in energy costs. Honda will share its Green Dealer experience with dealers from fellow automakers at the National Automobile Dealers Association Conference this year. We always celebrate the success of our partners and do our best to welcome new partners and nurture existing ones. Honda also just announced plans to install a stationary fuel cell power station on its corporate campus in Torrance by early 2023.

Electric vehicle company, **Lucid Motors Company**, is working to create intuitive, sustainable, efficient vehicles with exceptional range. In April 2021, they expanded their California footprint and established their Torrance Studio on the Blvd. I had the privilege of test driving one and I have to say it was an E-ticket ride.

Rivian, another electric vehicle company, is rapidly growing as well and is looking to expand into Torrance moving into the old Edelbrock headquarters on California Street.

It comes as no surprise that EV companies feel at home in Torrance. Since 2016 we installed 6 fully operations EV Stations throughout the City as part of our **"One Mile, One Charger Project."** 6 years later and several of our private business have installed their own chargers for public use. Now, with more than 120 public charging stations around the City, Torrance's expansion of EV infrastructure throughout the City ensures that EV drivers are never more than one mile from a charging station within the City of Torrance.

Torrance has become a hub for up-and-coming technology. In August, real estate services firm Newmark announced it had arranged the sale of the almost 600,000 sq. ft. **Torrance Technology Campus**. The property spans five light industrial buildings — of which three are interconnected — and is situated on 27-acres fronting on both Lomita Blvd. and Skypark Drive. The Torrance Technology Campus is 90% leased to three tenants, with aerospace and defense tech company **Stellant Systems Inc.** occupying 80% of the property. In fact, Stellant signed a lease extension and expansion, and made a \$40 million investment in campus infrastructure by the company. The neighboring Torrance Memorial Medical Center is also among the campus' tenants.

Speaking of technology, Torrance has been a key component of the creation of the South Bay Fiber Network, a regional broadband fiber-optic ring that connects all the South Bay cities. City staff are now working with the South Bay COG and other partners, both public and private, to expand on this ring to enable our business community to have



access to more and better choices for internet service. If your business is lacking in this area, please let our Office of Economic Development know!

Epirus Inc. - Power Management Solutions, a venture-backed startup that builds defense systems capable of taking down enemy drones, opened their 100,000-square-foot headquarters in Torrance.

Epirus is a high-growth technology company developing solid-state, software-defined directed energy systems that enable unprecedented counter-electronics effects and power management solutions to optimize power efficiency in defense and commercial applications. Translation: They can shoot down a missile without ballistics.

Since its founding in 2018, Epirus has quickly translated its bold vision into a rapidly scaling company with multiple product lines in development to support both government and commercial markets. In the past year alone, Epirus more than doubled its workforce and opened their new Corporate Headquarters in Torrance, to support the company's accelerated growth. With recent contracts awarded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Army Applications Laboratory, Epirus continues to establish itself as a major player in the defense technology space and lay the groundwork for the commercial application of its technology.

Another high-tech business **3DEO** recently expanded to an 80,000 sq. ft. facility here in Torrance. 3DEO is the world's highest volume manufacturer of 3D printed precision metal components made with their patented metal 3D printing technology. 3DEO serves a variety of industries, including medical, defense, automotive, aerospace, consumer products and industrial. By working with 3DEO, customers get dedicated engineering support and access to cutting edge manufacturing technologies.

Inversion Space Company, another cutting edge company moved into a 5,000-square-foot warehouse in Torrance. What co-founders, Justin Fiaschetti and Austin Briggs are trying to do is not easy. They are designing a space vehicle for re-entry to earth. If Inversion is successful, it will be possible to imagine hundreds or thousands of containers floating around space for up to five years — like distant storage lockers. The company's founders imagine the capsules could store artificial organs that are delivered to an operating room within a few hours or serve as mobile field hospitals floating in orbit that would be dispatched to remote areas of the planet. And one day, a shortcut through space could allow for unimaginably fast deliveries — like delivering a Philly Cheesesteak to Torrance in 45 minutes!

Taking it to another Galaxy, in January the LA Galaxy and the City of Torrance announced a new partnership to keep the Torrance Multi-Use Sports Complex open to the community. Following significant negotiations and broad community support, the City under new terms made significant capital improvements including new synthetic turf that is being installed as we speak, while the LA Galaxy will generously cover the monthly agreement allowing the fields to continue to be open and accessible to the overall community.



Located across the street from Kinecta Soccer Center, powered by the LA Galaxy, the state-of-the-art, 6.2-acre facility features high-quality synthetic turf and energy-efficient sports lighting for year-round soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby and other sport playability. The complex is centrally located at 555 Maple Avenue, near the Torrance Civic Center.

Under the new City lease, the State of California-owned 6.2-acre property has been renamed **LA Galaxy Sports Complex** and will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 16th, hopefully with a big celebration and a fun block party! Stay tuned for more details!

Progress continues to be made on the **Sares-Regis Group Business Complex Torrance Gateway**, with Phase 2 construction projects at 190th and Western Ave in progress. If you haven't driven by recently, it is really taking shape! You will be seeing a lot of major changes next week!

The City's Office of Economic Development continues to flourish. One of the components is the business visitation program, which is a key to building and nurturing business relationships. In fact, this week we visited Eravant, formerly Sage Millimeter, a firm that designs and manufactures high-performance components and subassemblies that support engineers working on traditional and emerging applications for millimeter-wave technology. The company has been in Torrance since 2011 and recently moved into a larger building. Wendy Shu, the CEO really believes that the work environment is a key factor in employee recruitment and retention.

The office continues to work with regional partners and host events to promote Torrance businesses.

Last year we were able to celebrate our very own **Torrance Little League** with a parade for making it to the Little League World Series. I was very proud of these young gentlemen for not only their athletic abilities and sportsmanship but also for their professionalism and warm and welcoming attitudes visible to all of America. You made Torrance proud. Of course, we also have a very talented Olympian that has shared her spotlight with our city. 2-time Olympic Gold Medalist in Snowboarding and Torrance native **Chloe Kim** once again prevailed at the Winter Olympics. Shedding light on Torrance as her hometown, Chloe is the first woman to win 2 gold medals in the half-pipe and is the youngest woman to win an Olympic snowboarding gold medal. Torrance is everywhere. Filming continues to be successful in Torrance and you may have recognized our City in **HBO Max shows like Insecure and the Flight Attendant**. The Office of Economic Development has streamlined the process and now potential clients can apply for filming permits online with online special events permits on its way.

Every successful community has its own strengths and weaknesses, but they all share some common characteristics. It's clear for instance that successful communities involve a broad cross-section of residents in determining and planning the future. They also capitalize on their distinctive assets -- their architecture, history, natural surroundings, and home-grown businesses -- rather than trying to adopt a new and different identity.

As I end my 2 terms as Mayor of this great City, responsibility is now in your hands. On June 7 your vote



will decide the direction the City of Torrance will take in the next four years. I urge you to make your decision about who to vote for based on your observations and values. Up for election are the seats of Mayor and City Treasurer. Registered voters who reside in Districts 1, 3, and 5 will also be voting for Councilmembers within their district.

It's a little bittersweet for me but as I mentioned earlier, it is important to have hindsight to know where you've been. And dare I say the irony in hindsight being 2020??

During my 2 terms, we said goodbye to some of the greats. Assistant City Manager Mary Giordano retired and then passed but will now continue her legacy with the new Transit Center. We now have Mr. Danny Santana to leave his own mark on the city, adding his own expertise in Community Development.

As I mentioned earlier, Police Chief Jay Hart was appointed and it couldn't have come at a better time. His leadership has already set a standard to be proud of for our Police Department. Ms. Sheila Poisson stepped in seamlessly as Finance Director and our new Executive Staff Community Services Director, Mr. John LaRock, Community Development Director, Ms. Michelle Ramirez and our new Communication and Information Technology Director Mr. Andrei Yermakov offer a fresh set of eyes to improve our operations in their departments.

I have enjoyed my time as Mayor and I've had an honor not many Torrance Mayors have... the honor of working with 2 City Managers. I don't think anyone can contest that Mr. LeRoy J. Jackson will forever be Torrance's Official Historian. His institutional knowledge of Torrance goes unmatched and the support he offered me was priceless. I am honored he felt comfortable retiring while I was in office.

Mr. Aram Chaparyan was no stranger to Torrance when he took on the role of City Manager; having worked for the City for more than 20 years, starting as an intern! Working closely with Aram, it is clear he has the foresight to navigate us out of this pandemic. And for me, 6 years as a Councilmember, 8 years as your Mayor. During my tenure I have so many people to thank, past mayors, council members, commissioners, staff, volunteers and especially Donna Duperron and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce for your support through the years. I now have the insight to know "termed out" has a new meaning. But that is how life works. Just as we flipped through photos of our past achievements today, we can only move forward. Torrance is my forever home. I'm proud of the footprints I've left behind... And I'm thankful for all of you... The partners and friends I've made in my journey.

Go ahead and pick up your **3D Viewmasters**. Now.... hold that pose so I can get my selfie!

Now, click through the film. We can reminisce, we can remember, we can learn from our past... But we can only move forward with the Viewmasters; just as we can with our City. Thank you once again for trusting me with our City. For allowing me to serve this community... and for supporting me in moving Torrance forward.

So today... St. Patrick's Day 2022, my final State of the City Address, I leave you with an Irish Blessing –



May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, And, until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hands.

Thank you

